

PROCLAMATION

An Appeal to the Women of South Dakota

Heavy casualties have been sustained in the Armed Forces of this Nation, particularly in recent months, resulting in shortage of help in Army hospitals to care for our sick and military wounded. General George C. Marshall, Chief of Staff, United States Army, has issued an urgent call for 8,000 additional women to serve in the Women's Army Corps as Medical Technicians. In doing so, he emphasized that the hospital loads caused by the heavy increase in returning casualties, coupled with the now acute shortage of nurses, made necessary "urgent measures" to enlist and train Wacs for hospital service.

General Marshall has appealed to me as Governor for the cooperation and support of the people of this State for enlisting women for service in the Army's sixty general hospitals which are now receiving 20,000 wounded men monthly.

General Marshall emphasized that hospital loads caused by recent heavy increases of returned sick and wounded coupled with a serious shortage of nurses, made it imperative to accelerate a WAC enlistment and training program for hospital service.

As a State and as individuals, we enjoy the freedom and liberties for which our men are giving their lives, limbs and health on far-flung fronts, and it is urgent that we give every possible care to the sick and wounded returned for treatment.

Enlisted women from this State will serve our own South Dakota wounded men at Bushnell General Hospital, Brigham, Utah.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, M. Q. SHARPE, Governor of the State of South Dakota, do hereby declare a state of emergency exists and I stress the need for medical technicians in the Armed Forces of this Nation in the care of our sick and wounded, and urge the people of this State, who can volunteer for service in the Women's Army Corps, to enlist for duty.

ATTEST: (GREAT SEAL)  
MRS. L. V. LARSEN

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the State of South Dakota, this 7th day of February, 1945. 2nd

STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA - BUREAU OF ADMINISTRATION - OFFICE OF RECORDS MANAGEMENT - CERTIFICATE OF AUTHENTICITY  
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